



May 23, 2008

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Martin,

In 2005, When C3 Presents came to Chicago to produce Lollapalooza in 2005, the event was mindfully developed with Parkways Foundation and the Chicago Park District as a civic partnership based on the understanding that working together builds a better city. C3 and Perry Farrell have joined us in our commitment to continually enrich our city's parks as open spaces for all to enjoy, play and participate in protecting the environment.

Almost as soon as the partnership with Lollapalooza was forged, WXRT also joined with Parkways, understanding that this was more than a music festival, that it was an opportunity to make a difference—a lasting impact in the city. And I remember that this was a natural and obvious partnership as WXRT has been a leader, THE leader in Chicago in promoting, supporting and being a champion for civic causes. And, XRT does this with a creativity and ease because it has always been a part of the station's identity.

I recall Len Bramer on a phone conversation with Perry Ferrell when the 2007 Lolla bands were announced. Perry is so committed to Chicago's parks, and the work of Parkways, that most of the conversation was about Lollapalooza giving back. Finally, they both realized that they better get to talking about the bands. For Parkways, this is a dream—to have a media company that cares so much about this city, that the improvements in the parks was as important to the conversation as the music.

Then, in 2007, Parkways launched GALApalooza, an event on the eve of Lollapalooza to raise additional funds for Parkways projects. Again, Tom Lisack and WXRT were first on board. You brought us to Marty Lennartz who emceed the event—and did so with enthusiasm. As we look to year two of this event, WXRT is continuously bringing us new ways to promote the Parkways cause—and have given us good leadership and advice on how to build the event.

For a non-profit organization that serves so many neighborhoods, there is not a dollar amount that can be assigned to partners like WXRT. The impact is tremendous—as Parkways gains visibility, our donor reach extends and more projects completed and programs launched. Since 2005, we have invested millions into neighborhood park projects including universally accessible playgrounds, programs for children with disabilities, community garden programs, and especially, a mobile recording studio that travels to parks for kids to record their own rap, hip hop, poetry.

We are proud of our partnership with WXRT, and grateful to have the best station in Chicago at the forefront in telling the great story of how Lollapalooza brings great music and great impact throughout the city.

Sincerely,

Brenda R. Palm
Executive Director